

The Story of Prophet Musa (AS): The Last Encounter with Death

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Chapter 1: The Divine Encounter with Death

The Mission of Azrael (AS):

According to a narration by Abu Hurairah (RA), the Angel of Death, Azrael (AS), was sent by Allah to the Prophet Musa (AS). Upon his arrival, Azrael (AS) was met with resistance; Prophet Musa (AS) struck him upon the face.

Complaint before the Divine:

Azrael (AS) returned to Allah with a grievance, expressing his astonishment at being sent to a servant who still wished to remain in the world.

Azrael's (AS) Protest:

Azrael (AS):

“O Allah! You sent me to a servant who wishes to remain in the world.”

Divine Response: Conditional Longevity

Allah, in His wisdom, responded by questioning Azrael's (AS) approach, highlighting the absence of prior permission. He declared that He would restore the Angel's eye and instructed him to return with a new proposition for Prophet Musa (AS).

Allah:

“You did not seek permission first. I shall restore your eye. Return to him and ask if he wishes to remain in the world. If so, tell him to place his hand on the back of an ox; for every hair that his hand covers, I shall grant him one year of life.”

Chapter 2: The Final Decision

A Renewed Visit with a New Offer:

Azrael (AS) returned once more to Prophet Musa (AS), conveyed greetings of peace, and relayed the message of the Most High. He informed him that although his appointed time had come, Allah was offering him an extension of life under specific terms.

The Divine Offer:

Azrael (AS):

“Peace be upon you. Your time has come, but if you wish to stay, Allah commands: place your hand upon the back of an ox. However many hairs your hand covers, that many years shall be added to your life.”

The Question of What Comes After:

Upon receiving the message, Prophet Musa (AS) posed a single, reflective question: what would follow after that extension?

The Inquiry and Acceptance:

Prophet Musa (AS):

“And what will happen after that?”

Azrael (AS):

“Then you will have to go.”

Prophet Musa (AS):

“Then why not go now?”

Chapter 3: The Return to the Beloved

Journey to the Sacred:

Prophet Musa (AS) requested to be taken near the Holy Land, at a distance equivalent to a stone's throw from Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem). It was there that his soul was taken, fulfilling the Divine decree.